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Docket No. DEP0546

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Serhan et al. Group Art Unit: 3732  
Serial No.: 09/822,126 Examiner: Manahan, Todd E.  
Filed: March 30, 2001  
Title: Intervertebral Connection System

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Karen Day, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 10/30, 2003.

Karen Day (signature)  
Karen Day

10/30/03 (date)

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## REPLY TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT CLAIM AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of October 6, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-captioned patent application and entry of the below amendments in view of the following amendment and remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins at page 2 of this paper.

**Amendment to the Abstract** is reflected on page 12 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin at page 13 of this paper.

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